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I hereby certify that on 6-23-03, this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited as first class mail with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Trudi Thompson
Trudi Thompson

PATENT

Applicant: **Williams et al.**
Serial No.: **09/553223**
Filed: **April 20, 2000**
Title: **A COMBINED RAPID
SUSCEPTIBILITY ASSAY AND
MICROORGANISM
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**
Examiner: **P. Weber**
Group Art Unit: **1651**
Atty Docket No.: **14598.34**

18/C
M.G.J.
7/2/03

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JUN 27 2003

Preliminary Amendment in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.114(c)

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22131-1450

Sir:

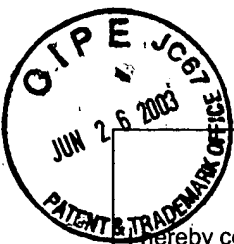
This preliminary amendment is being filed with the Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) in the above-identified case. The Applicants respectfully assert that this preliminary amendment places this case in condition for immediate allowance. Before proceeding the Applicants would like to thank Examiner Weber for his courtesy in discussing this case with the Applicants' attorney and for his suggestions and comments. The Applicants have considered the Examiner's suggestions and have integrated them into this preliminary amendment. The Applicants acknowledge that no agreement was reached on the allowability of the claims as amended in the instant RCE; however, the Applicants believe that their amendments address all outstanding issues related to patentability.

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the marked up claims are attached to the end of this Amendment

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 27 - 36.

Please amend claims 43-48 as follows:



6-26-3

RCE/1551

PATENT

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#17
M.G.J.
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner of Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 27 2003

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1. SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR § 1.116 previously filed on _____
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declarations(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other _____ Month Extension of Time

2. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(i) required.)

3. FEES

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1329
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of _____ \$ enclosed.
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR § 1.27
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

06/27/2003 AWONDAF1 00000046 501329 09553223

01 FC:1801 750.00 DA

Date: 6/23/03

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS C. CULLMAN
Registration No. 39,645

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